the needs of the rural water supply and sanitation sector also provides for networking with NGOs.

Presence of Flouride in Ground Water of Ghaziabad

3253. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 62 samples of ground water taken from 4 sub-divisions of Ghaziabad districts bordering Delhi were found to contain high level of flouride;

(b) whether fluorosis is a potentially cripling disease which is caused by and excessive content of flouride in the water; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Ground Water Board has analysed 106 water samples collected from the district of Ghaziabad and has found that some samples contain sporadic flouride content upto maximum level of 2.2 milligram/litre.

(b) The flouride level more than 10 milligram/litre causes fluorosis. Long use of water having flouride content upto 2.5 miligram/litre causes mottling and pitting of teeth.

(c) With a view to providing water free from fluoride to the people, deflouridation plants have been installed under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. The Government has also taken the following steps to provide safe drinking water to the people:—

(i) The Central Ground Water Authority notifies areas from time to time for control and regulation of ground water development. So far it has notified Najafgarh and Mehrauli blocks of NCT Delhi, Municipal Corporation area of Faridabad, Ballabgarh and Ghaziabad, Ludhiana city, Diu and Jhotwara block of Jaipur district, Rajasthan.

(ii) Identification of hand pumps and other structures in

polluted areas where the shallow ground water is not fit for human consumption and painting them red with warning.

(iii) The Central Ground Water Authority have organised mass awareness programmes among public, industrialists and industrial workers regarding pollution and over-extraction of ground water.

(iv) The Central Ground Water Board is carrying out the periodic monitoring of water quality in the country.

(v) The Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission is engaged in providing safe drinking water to the rural areas and also providing contamination removal plants to the States in the water quality affected areas.

Completion of major Irrigation Projects in Bihar

3254. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that 14 major irrigation projects in Bihar are pending completion for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof project-wise and status of each project at present; and

(c) what action Government have initiated to complete these irrigation projects of Bihar within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There are 14 major projects in Bihar pending completion. This excludes Bansagar Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh for which only dam share is being paid by Bihar Government. The details of the status of these projects are given in statement enclosed. (*see* below).

(c) Being a state subject, irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their own resources as per their priority. However, Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme has been provided by Central Government to four major projects in Bihar and an amount of Rs. 167.080 crore has been released upto 3/2000.